(a) No, Sir. No proposal to lower the retirement age of the Central Government employees is under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Pension reforms

150. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized pension reform draft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the pensioners have shown resentment to the new draft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) All new recruits to the Central Government service joining from 1st January, 2004 (except the armed forces in the first stage) are mandatorily covered under the New Pension System (NPS). The monthly contribution is 10 percent of the salary and DA to be paid by the employee and matched by the Central Government. However, there is no contribution from the Government in respect of individuals who are not Government employees. The contributions and investment returns are deposited in a non-withdrawable pension tier-I account. The existing provisions of defined benefit pension and GPF are not available to the new recruits in the Central Government service.

Government proposes to set up a separate statutory regulator for this scheme.

(c) The NPS is applicable only to new entrants in Central Government service from January 1, 2004 and not to existing pensioners.

SSC Examination in all languages

151. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINSITER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to conduct the Staff Selection Commission examinations in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;